
LESSON 6

FORCE PROTECTION

Indeed, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction--nuclear, chemical, biological--is one of the most troubling dangers we face...

-- 1995 National Military Strategy

To win decisively, our warfighters must be confident that their equipment is more lethal than the enemy's and offers them a greater level of protection.

-- Army Systems Survivability Strategy

Introduction

Purpose

This lesson

- Shows how crucial command emphasis and involvement are in force protection
 - Discusses the necessity for a comprehensive approach and DoD force protection standards
 - Shows the need for implementing more joint and multinational force protection cooperation
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Why Study Force Protection?

Force protection is the inherent responsibility of commanders at every level. This is especially true in light of more frequent and longer deployment of U.S. military forces to the troubled spots in the post-Cold War world. Force protection is becoming an increasingly problematic issue with the proliferation of highly sophisticated weapons systems. These may range from the traditional car bomb to ballistic missiles armed with nuclear, biological, or chemical (NBC) warheads.

In places like Lebanon, Haiti, Bosnia, Somalia, and Saudi Arabia, American military commanders have discovered the harsh reality that terrorists can sometimes inflict serious harm on American and allied military forces. Effective force protection is essential to successfully completing your mission without prohibitive casualties.

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Introduction, Continued

Why Study Force Protection? continued

The term *protection* also applies to your effort to prevent friendly fire casualties. Modern warfare is characterized by highly lethal long-range weapons, high mobility, and a fast-paced operational tempo. Mistakes such as not having a positive control over maneuvering forces, misdirected artillery fire, and the inability to recognize friend from foe can easily result in unnecessary loss of life. It is the commander's responsibility to take measures that minimize the risks of friendly fire casualties.

Force protection is nothing more than the traditional Marine Corps' leadership responsibility of "taking care of our own."

Relationship to Other Instruction

Force protection is not a subject that stands alone. It is closely related to a number of other topics that either you have studied or will study in this course. Battlespace management and C⁴ are two of the primary means of protecting your force from the enemy and preventing friendly fire casualties. MAGTF intelligence provides a means for you to understand more about the threat. The information in lessons 9 and 10, "MEF Operational Fires" and "MEF Targeting" is helpful in avoiding fratricide.

Study Time

This lesson, including the issues for consideration, will require about 3 hours of study.

Educational Objectives

Force Protection Understand the concept of force protection.

**USMC and
USA Views** Comprehend how the Marine Corps and the Army view force protection.

**Threat to
Joint Forces** Appreciate the potential threat that ballistic missiles pose to joint forces while understanding the necessity for joint theater missile defense. [JPME 1(a), 1(b), and 5(c)]

**Khobar
Towers** Study the incident at Khobar Towers as a framework for understanding force protection.

**JPME Areas/
Objectives/Hours
(accounting data)** 1/a/1
1/b/1
5/c/1

Discussion

Definition

Force protection, one of the Marine Corps' six battlespace functions (BSF), can be defined as security programs designed to protect soldiers, civilians, employees, family members, facilities, and equipment in all locations and situations--accomplished through planned and integrated application of combating terrorism, physical security, operations security, personal protective services--and is supported by intelligence, counterintelligence, and other security programs.

Lessons Learned

Since Operation *Desert Storm*, U.S. military and civilian leadership have embraced force protection as a dominant theme in every subsequent employment of U.S. military power. In many ways, Iraq's invasion of Kuwait was a watershed event for U.S. leaders obligated and concerned with protecting the friendly force. They were faced with certain harsh realities:

- U.S. forces were largely unprepared for a significant NBC threat possessed by a third world adversary.
 - America's superior technological capabilities and advantages were insufficient to prevent fratricide which would account for 12 percent of all U.S. KIAs.
 - Current systems were inadequate in removing the Iraqi missile threat or from providing total protection to the coalition. A single SCUD inflicted 21 percent of all U.S. combat casualties.
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Results of Lessons Learned

The results of lessons learned were

- A series of legislative hearings, exhaustive studies, new public laws further requiring joint doctrine and development of protective means
 - Service programs designed to provide a deployable, lethal, and versatile force capable of winning battles and wars decisively, swiftly, and with minimum casualties.
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Discussion, Continued

Focus	<p>To date, force protection efforts have been focused on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Theater missile defense• Combat identification of friendly forces• NBC defense• Survivability on the modern battlefield• Antiterrorism <p>All of which were accomplished with heavy emphasis on each throughout the research, development, and acquisition process.</p>
Operational Necessity of Force Protection	<p>The purpose of force protection is to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintain or create tempo• Preclude culmination points• Conserve a force's fighting potential so that it can be applied at the decisive time and place
Force Protection Measures	<p>Both active and passive measures are used to counter the threat's firepower and maneuver by making friendly force systems and operational facilities difficult to locate, strike, and destroy. These measures are taken to protect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Joint and multinational air, space, land, and sea forces• Special operations forces, bases, and lines of communication (LOC) from threat air, ground, and sea attack; natural occurrence; and from terrorist attack• Operational forces, systems, and civil infrastructures of friendly nations and groups in military operations other than war (MOOTW)

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Discussion, Continued

Integrated Planning

Integrated planning is organized by BSFs and facilitates the MAGTF commanders' synchronization of their forces over space and time and permits the proper allocation of MAGTF resources. This process promotes centralized planning and decentralized execution.

Marine Corps Force Protection Doctrine

The Marine Corps' force protection doctrine includes

- Operations security (OPSEC)
 - Aerospace and missile defense
 - Protection for forces, resources, and noncombatants
 - Deception, cover, and concealment to manipulate threat forces
 - Security for forces
 - C² protection
 - Coordination with host nation and other elements of power
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Army Force Protection Doctrine

The Army's force protection doctrine includes

- OPSEC
 - Maintaining health and morale of soldiers
 - Emphasis on safety in combat and noncombat situations
 - Avoidance of fratricide
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Naval Context

Force protection from a Naval point of view includes

- Decoys
 - Electronic jamming
 - Personal protective gear
 - Damage control
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Discussion, Continued

Force Protection Strategies There are three national strategies in force protection:

- Prevent and reduce the threat
 - Determine the threat
 - Defend against the threat
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DoD Force Protection You will notice the similarities of force protection in all the services. Determine how the Marine Corps' definition differs from the other services in your readings. Pay close attention to the DoD concept, and compare and contrast it to the Marine Corps'.

Required Readings

FM/FMFRP Readings

FM 100-5, *Operations*, pp. 2-10 to 2-11. Find this reading in the *FM/FMFRP Readings* (8800), pp. 61 to 62. These pages provide the Army's definition and four components of force protection.

The Marine Air- Ground Task Force (MAGTF) Readings

- Perry, William J. "Force Protection: Hardening the Target." *Defense 96*, Issue 6, based on "Report to the President on the Protection of U.S. Forces Deployed Abroad," released 16 September 1996, pp. 1 to 16. Find this reading in the *The Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) Readings*, Annex D, pp. D-3 to D-17. Mr. Perry's remarks after the attack on Khobar Towers.
 - Unknown. "Terrorism...An Undeclared War." *Defense 96*, Issue 6, based on the executive summary of the Downing task force report to the Secretary of Defense, 30 August 1996, pp. 17 to 25. Find this reading in the *The Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) Readings*, Annex D, pp. D-19 to D-23. Assessment of the attack on Khobar Towers and Downey's task force findings.
 - Perry, William J. "Force Protection: Take Care of Each Other." *Defense Issues*, Vol. 11, Num. 70, pp. 1 to 3. Find this reading in the *The Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) Readings*, Annex D, pp. D-25 to D-31. Mr. Perry's remarks after visiting Dharan.
 - Kraminiski, Paul. "DoD's Ballistic Missile Defense Programs." *Defense Issues*, Vol. 12, Num. 14, pp. 1 to 8. Find this reading in the *The Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) Readings*, Annex D, pp. D-33 to D-41. Mr. Kraminski's plans for DoD's ballistic missile defense programs.
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For Further Study

Reference

The following reference is **not** required. This reference was used to address the topics presented in the lesson. It is included for your review as needed.

Joint Pub 3-01.5, *Doctrine for Joint Theater Missile Defense*.

Issues for Consideration

Force Protection What is force protection?

USMC Doctrine What considerations are included in planning for force protection according to the Marine Corps doctrine?

U.S. Army's Components What does the Army consider the four components of force protection?

Ballistic Missile Threats What programs are designed to provide force protection against ballistic missile threats?

Khobar Towers Name three items included in the Downing report that, if changed, would have reduced the effect of the terrorist bombing at Khobar Towers?